

Friday afternoon

Feb. 26, 1943

Hello Folks,

Imagine me writing on one of these contraptions again! But whether you can or not, here I ~~ben~~ for awhile anyhow. I'm supposed to be flying now but there aren't any ships available just now soooooo I'll just mess around while waiting to be dismissed.

We were supposed to fly to Houston, Texas, this afternoon, returning tonight, but guess that will either be canceled temporarily or for good. Doesn't make a whole lot of difference, but I had looked forward to such a long trip, and all over water, too. It was a trip primarily to give our navigator some practice, so instead of picking some trip over land where you could use check points, we were cutting straight across the Gulf of Mexico, making almost the entire trip an over water one. By returning tonight the entire trip would have been close to 1800 miles. But as I said, the trip will either be postponed, or another one will be substituted in its place.

At least the trip in the offing stood us in a good stead. There has recently been an order that our whole field, every enlisted man and officer, would have to stand an inspection, and pass in review once a week—that is all 'cept those flying or scheduled to fly ^{or excused from it.} And that in this case is us! Otherwise, instead of banging out this letter now, I would be standing outside in this hot Florida sun virtually sweating my insides out. Today is as hot as can be and as Khaki isn't even optional until the first of March, well, you can imagine what wool clothing would do to a feller.

I had dinner with Joe Hollmeyer in town yesterday. His mother

and sister are down here visiting him, so we went to town and had a real dinner, quite the nicest meal I've had in sometime. It was complete even to home made ice cream! And did we have us a feed, wow. His folks are staying in a nice hotel, one on the club style, just outside of town. I didn't even know Avon Park bosted of a place like that, I mentioned the fact to the owner (there's nothing small about us, we meet the owners wherever we go!) and he laughed. He said, "the only claim the hotel lays to Avon Park is that we have to use some plac~~e~~ as a post office, so I guess the feeling is mutual". Hoe's sister, who is just finishing high school, is the reason for their visit it seems. Her school has closed down for two weeks because of the lack of fuel, so she convinced Mrs. Hoellmeyer that besides seeing Joe, Florida was an awful good place to get warm in! Well, it just seems Mrs. H. needed none too much persuading so here they are.

Don't know just what I'll do this week end. It seems I'm really getting a break. We fly tomorrow morning and after we come down, As far as I know, I will be free until I have to be back for bed check Sunday night at 11:30 P.M. Don't know what Paul is planning to do. I heard him mention~~e~~ going to West Palm Beach, so who knows, maybe I will join him. Or then again, maybe I will go back to Winter Haven. I'm goin' to do something, you can get on that, unless I start getting scheduled for something, and they will have to be fast to get me.

How come you folks even know when Geo. Washington's Birthday comes around?--- I've reached the end of my paper, so as I don't know anything more to write but some more of the same, guess I'd better end with it!.

'Bye for now and

Love,

Frank